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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURTHOUSE, VIRGINIA

Single-Copy Price: 25 Cents

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Group visits Appomattox

Senior cyclists hit 4,000 miles

By BILL SHERROD

Pacific City, Ore. is a long way from Appomattox; about 4,000 miles, in fact.

Such a distance would be a marathon overland haul by automobile; imagine making the trip by bicycle.

Well, six bicycling enthusiasts who stopped in Appomattox for the night last Tuesday had done just that. And what's more remarkable, they were all senior citizens, ranging in age from 60 to 73 years.

The group was enroute to Yorktown, on the last leg of a coast-to-coast bicycle tour along the "Bike-Centenniel" route. This route was mapped in 1976 as part of the nation's bicentenniel observance.

The "senior cyclists," as they call themselves, left Pacific City on June 4, according to Joe Tryens, a 68-year-old Hawaii resident. "The group numbered 11 at the start of the trip," Tryens said. "Five dropped out, for reasons ranging from illness to accidents."

With Tryen in the group that made it this far were Kenneth A. Kemp, a 73-year-old from Cincinnati, Ohio; Clarence A. Johnson, 69, from Antiao, Wisconsin; Murl Whattof, age 63, from Ames, Iowa; Peg Meany, 68, from Cleveland, Ohio; and Elaine Steinbrink, age 60, from Dunmor, Kentucky.

The trip was arranged after an advertisement appeared in a bimonthly magazine published by the Bike-Centenniel organization. As Tyrens notes, "We each had a different reason for wanting to make the trip."

The group traveled through nine states before reaching Virginia. At Yorktown, the group planned to tour historic Yorktown and Williamsburg and other sites, then "go our separate ways, by plane, bus or train, not bicycle," according to Tryens.

The group was staying at Travelers Inn Motel in Appomattox Tuesday, but had spent about 60 percent of their nights camping. Their travel averaged between 50 and 60 miles per day, and, as Kemp noted, the trail is not easy.

"We crossed the Continental Divide nine times," he said. "It seems as if they mapped the trail to go over the highest hills in the country."

Tryens noted that the group had been graced with "exceptionally good weather" during the trip. "There was very little rain, and we had a lot of company from other bikers, especially out west."

"People have been exceptionally nice to us along the entire route," noted Kemp. To illustrate the point, Kemp recalled an incident which occured in a small college town in Kansas.

"We met a family, the McMurphys, and became very friendly, during one of our stopovers. The next morning, I left my tent poles at the campground when we hit the road to continue our journey. I didn't discover it until the middle of the next day. So I called the McMurphys, who went down to the campground, found the poles, and boxed them up. They gave the poles to another bicyclist who was passing through, and he caught up with us later and gave the poles to me."

The only complaint the group had during the trip was with roadside dogs, which often charged the bicyclists with reckless abandon.

SIX SENIOR CITIZENS bicyclists stopped for the night in Appomattox last Tuesday on the last leg of their bike tour from Oregon to Virginia. The group left Pacific City, Oregon on June 4 and expected to arrive at their destination, Yorktown by late last week. Shown about to depart Appomattox are (from left) Ken Kemp, Joe Tryens, Murl Whattoff, Elaine Steinbrink, Clarence Johnson, and Peg Meany. (Photo by Bill Sherrod)

In talking with members of the group, one was left with the impression that there is much truth to the old adage which, paraphrased, indicates that youth is not so much a matter of years as a state of mind.

As Kenneth Kemp, the oldest of the group at 73, said, "A trip like this gives you something to do after you're retired. It provides a lot of good memories, keeps you skinny, and gives you a new perspective on the United States. This is a big country, and the people are freindly people.

"And," Kemp concluded, "a trip like this gives you a good sense of camaraderie with the other members of the group, as well as a better understanding of yourself."

MD benefit planned in County

By FRANCES ABBITT

Sunday, September 2 and Monday, September 3 are special days in Appomattox. Attention will be focused on Muscular Dystrophy in a cooperative effort with the annual Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon.

The Appomattox Town Office will be headquarters for MD activities and the Pledge Center for the Labor Day weekend fund drive.

Judy Volturo is Appomattox County Chairman for the MD drive. She would like to remind area citizens that "volunteers are needed for manning the phones during this drive. We also need people to help with games and a number of other jobs," she said.

"If you can give a few hours on either of these days we ask you to call 352-8268," Volturo added.

The MD activities begin on Sunday evening when volunteers will begin manning the phones at the Appomattox Town Office at 9 p.m. and continue until 1 a.m. Monday morning.

On Monday, September 3 the phones will again be manned by volunteers from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. At 12 noon on Monday the fun and games will begin and at 1 p.m. an auction will be held with Appomattox Mayor Ronald C. Spiggle serving as auctioneer. All proceeds from the auction will go to the MDA fund drive. If you have items you wish to donate to be sold at auction, please call the Town Office at 352-8269 or Betty Ford, Auction Chairman, at 352-8940.

"Local merchants and businesses will be asked to donate items for the auction," commented Volturo.

Last year Appomattox people gave more than $2800 for the cause of MD and related Neuromuscular Diseases.

[Continued on page 7]

New school board chairman

Johnson: help is goal

By SHAVONNE JOHNSON
Student Intern

Mrs. Henrietta Johnson, former teacher and school board member, has recently accepted the position as chairman of the Appomattox County School Board.

Johnson stated that she enjoyed many wonderful experiences throughout her teaching career and anticipates her experiences as chairman to be just as great. She added that she will do her best to adequately demonstrate her abilities as chairman of the school board and expects a good year for teachers and students.

"Everyone should have an opportunity to get an education" says Johnson. She predicts that individuals will constantly strive to receive better educational opportunities to help them obtain degrees, advanced degrees, increased salaries, promotions, etc.

Her major contribution to society has been "helping people such as advising them with information to benefit their lives and working with young students".

Johnson says her future contribution to society will be "to continue to support the educational program and to help youngsters".

Choosing to attend college to better her background and get a job in order to make a good living, Johnson says it was truely an enriching experience. "Yes, of course", replied Johnson explaining that if she had the opportunity - she would do it all over again.

A native of Appomattox County, Johnson says if she had to choose another state in which to live it would be the Pacific Coast state of California or the Spanish-speaking state of Mexico which lies south of the Rio Grande.

Johnson enjoys baseball, basketball, tennis and expressed feeling good to see "people achieve such great accomplishments" during the Olympics.

Do you have common interests with other people born under the same astrological sign as you? Johnson says, "Yes". She and her son are Aries and they enjoy decorating the house, working with flowers and cooking delicious meals.

Johnson adds she loves traveling, reading, and said, "Life is just about what you make it".

County schools

Opening is smooth

"We had an excellent school opening," said Appomattox County School Division Superintendent Lloyd Walton of Monday's opening.

"All schools experienced exceptionally smooth openings. By 9 a.m. all students were in their classrooms, the teachers had taken control and classes were moving forward with ease," Walton commented.

The total enrollment at the end of the day on Monday was 2347. This is approximately 100 less than what was anticipated. Additional enrollments are expected during the week, Walton noted.

"We are anticipating an excellent school session," said Walton. "Classes have been expanded in several areas to meet the needs of the academically talented students as well as special attention given to those students who will need extra help in reaching desired grade level," he added.

"Grades kindergarten through 12 will be striving to reach maximum academic achievement. Emphasis will be put on acceptable student conduct in the classrooms and on the buses. Parent involvement in all areas of the school program will be sought. Effective instruction in the classroom will be the goal of every teacher," said Walton.

"School facilities are in an excellent state of repair with the exception of the Vo-Ag building at the Appomattox Middle School and renovation in that area is moving forward as planned," Walton concluded.

The Appomattox County School Board will meet on Thursday evening of next week, September 6 at 7 p.m. in the library of the Appomattox Elementary School. Parents and school employees are invited to attend.

Any group or individual desiring to appear before the board is asked to contact the school board office prior to the meeting to insure a place on the agenda.

Reunion deadline approaches

The deadline for registering for the Appomattox County High School Class of 1974 reunion is Sept. 1.

Anyone who graduated from ACHS in 1974 who has not been contacted to obtain information concerning the class reunion is asked to call 352-2540 or 237-4019.

Food distribution set

The Appomattox County Department of Social Services will distribute surplus cheese and butter Wednesday, Sept. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Main Street Railroad Depot.

Recipients of food stamps, Medicaid, Aid to Dependent Children, Supplemental Security Income and fuel assistance will be eligible for the surplus food.

Also, people with a gross monthly income below 130 percent of the poverty level will be eligible for the food.

Mediciaid and SSI recipients must show their Medicaid identification card to receive the surplus food. Recipients of fuel and ADC will be checked against a master list.

Foodstamp recipients must bring the notice sent with the August 1984 food stamps. Green food stamp identification cards will not be accepted.

People requesting food based on their income must sign a form listing all household members and all gross monthly income. Be prepared to supply this information (see chart below).

Households with more than one family will receive only one allotment of surplus food. Please bring a bag or box with you.

Family Size	Monthly Gross Income
1	$ 527
2	709
3	891
4	1,073
5	1,255
6	1,437
7	1,619
8	1,801
9	1,983
10	2,165
11	3,347
12	3,529
13	3,711

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

This week features the opening of a new school term. Happy to see school buses running again and the general excitement.

Getting into the spirit of the moment, I even purchased a new pair of shoes. However, not to go to school, but because they were on sale at a bargain price. You, too, can find bargain values in Appomattox.

Watch for school bus traffic and let us aim for and achieve a year of no accidents.

I liked the slogan and message at a big sign in front of the local school along Route 460. It reads: "FREE. Knowledge. Monday through Friday. Bring Your Own Container."

The overall school population this year in Virginia is estimated at 955,000. Down slightly from last year. And while we are citing statistics, I read that total church membership in the nation is up a bit, to 139,603,059.

Dropped by the Appomattox County Historical Museum. Lots to see. Currently have a wall display of early lighting devices. A look at the Museum Register was interesting. Earlier this month a couple from Cairo, Egypt, had registered. And a couple from Chatsworth, California. Etc. We salute the staff for excellent performance. Ah yes, they now have a large old vintage Victrola that once belonged to the late Miss Kate Franklin, longtime music teacher from Pamplin.

Brought in a decorative gourd and a twin sunflower from my garden spot. Varnish decorative gourds and they will keep a year, or more.

Am indebted to Jane and Paul McElhaney for a collection of newspapers they recently got during a trip to Pennsylvania. They are valued readers of this column. Live near Virginia Beach, Kempsville. He is a Navy veteran of 27 years service. Had enlisted at earliest age possible.

The papers included "The Derrick" of Oil City. The Daily Courier, Connellsville. The Leader-Times, Kittaning. The Herald-Standard, Uniontown, etc. One issue contained 220 pages. Ah yes, and the McElhaney's had with them a cute 3-year-old Beagle dog. Name of Sadie. And one other note. Mr. McElhaney has 13 hives of honeybees. Nice to meet people with wide variety of interests.

Labor Day week-end around the corner. Lots of traffic. Please be careful.

Picked up a copy of "Virginia Hunting & Fishing Guide." Featured state and world fishing records. Interesting to read, but I always figured the truly biggest fish was the one that got away.

From my note pad. Nomination for "a strong face"...Golfer Jack Nicholas.

Thanks for reading and seeya around.

Preparing for Appomattox Fall Beef Festival

APPOMATTOX LIONS CLUB is once again sponsoring the Appomattox Fall Beef Festival on Wed., September 12 at Paradise Lake. Choice beef will be prepared a variety of ways by chief cook Dan Turner. Live music is planned as part of the festivities. Gates open at 3 p.m. and close at 8 p.m. Pictured, left to right, in front of the cooker are Morris Gordon, Wayne Compton, Floyd Williams, Murrell Ferguson, Clark Jones, and Ronnie Spiggle. (Photo by Bill Sherrod)

AUG